

SEM

They who reach Parnassus' lofty crown,
Employ their pains to spurn some others down;
And while self-love each jealous writer rules,
Contending wits become the sport of fools. *Pope.*
It may be thought that Ulysses here is too ostentatious, and
that he dwells more than modestly allows upon his own accom-
plishments; but self-praise is sometimes no fault. *Brown.*
No wonder such a spirit, in such a situation, is provoked
beyond the regards of religion or self-conviction. *Swift.*
SELFHEAL. *n. f.* [*brunella*, Latin.] A plant. The same with
SANICLE, which see.
SELFISH. *adj.* [from *self*.] Attentive only to one's own inter-
est; void of regard for others.
What could the most aspiring *selfish* man desire more, were
he to form the notion of a being to whom he would recom-
mend himself, than such a knowledge as can discover the least
appearance of perfection, and such a goodness as will propor-
tion a reward to it? *Addison's Spectator.*
Passions, though *selfish*, if their means be fair,
Lift under reason, and deserve her care;
Those that imparted court a nobler aim,
Exalt their kind, and take some virtue's name. *Pope.*
SELFISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *selfish*.] Attention to his own in-
terest, without any regard to others; self-love.
This sublimer love, being, by an intimate conjunction with
its object, thoroughly refined from all base dross of selfishness
and interest, nobly begets a perfect submission of our wills to
the will of God. *Boyle's Seraphick Love.*
SELFISHLY. *adv.* [from *selfish*.] With regard only to his own
interest; without love of others.
He can your merit *selfishly* approve,
And thence the sense of it without the love. *Pope.*
SELFISAME. *adj.* [*self* and *same*.] Numerically the same.
I have no great cause to look for other than the *self-same*
portion and lot, which your manner hath been hitherto to lay
on them that concur not in opinion with you. *Hooker, Pref.*
Flight pursu'd one way the *self-same* hour. *Milton.*
I have been base,
Base ev'n to him from whom I did receive
All that a son could to a parent give:
Behold me punish'd in the *self-same* kind;
Th' ungrateful does a more ungrateful find. *Dryden.*
SELFION. *n. f.* [*selio*, low Latin.] A ridge of land. *Ainsw.*
SELL. *pronom.* [for *self*.] *Sell* is retained in Scotland for *self*,
and *sells* in the plural for *elves*.
They turn round like griddle-stones,
Which they dig out fro' the dells,
For their bairns bread, wives and *sells*. *Ben. Johnson.*
SELL. *n. f.* [*selles*, French; *selia*, Latin.] A saddle.
Turning to that place, in which
He left his lofty steed with golden *sells*,
And goodly gorgeous barbes, him found not there. *F. Qu.*
To SELL. *v. a.* [*sellan*, Saxon; *selia*, Icelandic.] To give
for a price; the word correlative to buy; to vend.
The Midianites *sold* him unto Egypt, unto Potiphar. *Gen.*
Let us *sell* him to the Ishmaelites. *Gen. xxxvii. 27.*
The first tenth part I gave to the sons of Aaron, and another
I *sold* away. *Tob. i. 7.*
All the inns and publick houses are obliged to furnish them-
selves with corn, which is *sold* out at a much dearer rate than
it is bought up. *Addison on Italy.*
You have made an order that ale should be *sold* for three
half-pence a quart. *Swift.*
To SELL. *v. n.* To have commerce or traffick with one.
I will buy with you, *sell* with you; but I will not eat with
you. *Shakspeare. Merchant of Venice.*
Consult not with a buyer of *selling*. *Ecclesi. xxxvii. 11.*
SELLANDER. *n. f.* A dry scab in a horse's hough or pas-
tern. *Ainsworth.*
SELLER. *n. f.* [from *sell*.] The person that sells; vender.
To things of sale a *seller's* praise belongs. *Shakspeare.*
The name of the agent, of the *seller*, notary, and wit-
nesses, are in both instruments. *Addison on Italy.*
SELVAGE. *n. f.* [Of this word I know not the etymology.
Skinner thinks *selvage* is said as *salvage*, from its saving the
cloth.] The edge of cloth where it is closed by compli-
cating the threads.
Make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from
the *selvage* in the coupling. *Ex. xxvi. 4.*
SELVES. The plural of *self*.
Consciousness being interrupted, and we losing sight of
our past *selves*, doubts are raised whether we are the same. *Locke.*
SEMBLABLE. *adj.* [*semblable*, French.] Like; resembling.
Then be abhor'd
All sects, societies, and throngs of men!
His *semblable*, yea himself, Timon did stain. *Shakspeare.*
With *semblable* reason we might expect a regularity in the
winds. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
SEMBLABLY. *adv.* [from *semblable*.] With resemblance.
A gallant knight he was, his name was Blunt;
Seemingly furnish'd like the king himself. *Shakspeare. H. IV.*

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SEMBLANCE. *n. f.* [*semblance*, Fr. from *semblant*.]
1. Likeness; resemblance; similitude; representation.
Solicit Henry with her wondrous praise;
Bethink thee on her virtues, that surmount
Her natural graces, that extinguish art:
Repeat their *semblance* often. *Shakspeare.*
She's but the sign and *semblance* of her honour:
Behold how like a maid she blushes here!
O, what authority and shew of truth
Can cunning sin cover itself withal! *Shakspeare.*
He with high words, that bore
Seemance of worth, not substance, gently rais'd
Their fainting courage, and dispell'd their fears. *Milton.*
This last effort brought forth the opinion, that these bodies
are not what they seem to be; that they are no shells, but
mere sportings of active nature, and only *semblances* or imita-
tions of shells. *Woodward.*
It is not his meaning that we put on the outward face and
semblance of virtue, only to conceal and disguise our vice. *Reg.*
2. Appearance; show; figure.
Be you the soldier; for you likest are,
For many *semblance* and for skill in war. *Spenser.*
Their *semblance* kind, and mild their gestures were,
Peace in their hands, and friendship in their face. *Fairfax.*
All that fair and good in thy divine
Seemance, and in thy beauty's heav'nly ray,
United I behold. *Milt. Par. Lost.*
SEMBLANT. *adj.* [*semblant*, French.] Like; resembling;
having the appearance of anything. Little used.
In despite of age, of impious flame,
And eating time, thy picture, like thy fame,
Entire may last; that as their eyes survey
The *semblant* shade, men yet unborn may say,
Thus great, thus gracious look'd Britannia's queen;
Her brow thus smooth, her look thus serene. *Prior.*
SEMBLANT. *n. f.* Show; figure; resemblance; representa-
tion. Not in use.
Her purpose was not such as she did feign,
Ne yet her person such as it was seen;
But under simple shew, and *semblant* plain,
Lurks false Duella, secretly unseen. *Fairy Queen.*
Full lively is the *semblant*, tho' the substance dead. *Spens.*
SEMBLATIVE. *adj.* [from *semblant*.] Suitable; accommodate;
fit; resembling.
Diana's lip
Is not more smooth and ruby; thy small pipe
Is as the maiden's organ, shrill and sound;
And all is *semblative* a woman's part. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
To SEMBLE. *v. n.* [*sembler*, French.] To represent; to make
a likeness. Little used.
Let Europe, sav'd, the column high erect,
Than Trajan's higher, or than Antonine's,
Where *sembling* art may carve the fair effect,
And full achievement of thy great designs. *Prior.*
SEMI. *n. f.* [Latin.] A word which, used in composition,
signifies half: as *semicircle*, half a circle.
SEMIANNULAR. *adj.* [*semi* and *annulus*, a ring.] Half round.
Another boar tusk, somewhat slenderer, and of a *semiannu-*
lar figure. *Great's Museum.*
SEMI-BREVE. *n. f.* [*semibreve*, French.]
Semibreve is a note in music relating to time, and is the last
in augmentation. It is commonly called the master-note, or
measure-note, or time-note, as being of a certain determinate
measure or length of time by itself; and all the other notes of
augmentation and diminution are adjusted to its value. *Harris.*
He takes my hand, and as a still which stays
A *semibreve*, 'twixt each drop, he niggardly,
As loth to enrich me, fo' tells many a ye. *Down.*
SEMICIRCLE. *n. f.* [*semicirculus*, Lat. *semi* and *circle*.] A half
round; part of a circle divided by the diameter.
Black brows
Become some women best, so they be in a *semicircle*,
Or a half-moon, made with a pen. *Shakspeare.*
Has he given the lie
In circle, or oblique, or *semicircle*,
Or direct parallel? *Shakspeare.*
The chains that held my left leg gave me the liberty of
walking backwards and forwards in a *semicircle*. *Swift.*
SEMICIRCLED. *adj.* [*semi* and *circular*.] Half round.
SEMICIRCULAR. *adj.* [*semi* and *circular*.] Half round.
The firm fixure of thy foot would give an excellent mo-
tion to thy gait, in a *semicircled* farthingale. *Shakspeare.*
The rainbow is caused by the rays of the sun falling upon a
roird and opposite cloud, whereof some reflected, others re-
fracted, beget the *semicircular* variety we call the rainbow.
The seas are inclosed between the two *semicircular* moles
that surround it. *Addison on Italy.*
SEMICOLON. *n. f.* [*semi* and *colon*.] Half a colon; a point
made thus [;] to note a greater pause than that of a comma.
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SEMDIA'METER.

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SEMDIA'METER. *n. f.* [*semi* and *diameter*.] Half the line
which, drawn through the centre of a circle, divides it into
two equal parts; a straight line drawn from the circumference
to the center of a circle.
Their difference is as little considerable as a *semidiameter* of
the earth in two measures of the highest heaven, the one
taken from the surface of the earth, the other from its centre:
the disproportion is just nothing. *More.*
The force of this instrument consists in the disproportion
of distance betwixt the *semidiameter* of the cylinder and the
semidiameter of the bundle of the spokes. *Wilkins.*
SEMDIAPHANEITY. *n. f.* [*semi* and *diaphaneity*.] Half
transparency; imperfect transparency.
The transparency or *semidiaphaneity* of the superficial cor-
puscles of bigger bodies may have an interest in the produc-
tion of their colours. *Boyle on Colours.*
SEMDIAPHANOUS. *adj.* [*semi* and *diaphanous*.] Half tran-
parent; imperfectly transparent.
Another plate, finely variegated with a *semidiaphanous* grey
or sky, yellow and brown. *Woodward on Fossils.*
SEMDIOUBLE. *n. f.* [*semi* and *double*.] In the Romish bre-
viary, such offices and feast-as are celebrated with less solemn-
ity than the double ones, but yet with more than the single
ones. *Bailey.*
SEMDIOSCULOUS. *adj.* [*semi* and *osculous*, Latin.] Having
a semiloret.
SEMDIORET. *n. f.* [*semi* and *loret*.] Among florists, an
half flourish, which is tubulous at the beginning like a loret,
and afterwards expanded in the form of a tongue. *Bailey.*
SEMDIOLID. *adj.* [*semi* and *fluid*.] Imperfectly fluid.
Phlegm, or petuise, is a sort of *semifluid*, it being so far
solid that one part draws along several other parts adhering to
it, which do not happen in a perfect fluid, and yet no part
will draw the whole mass, as happens in a perfect solid. *Art.*
SEMDIOLAR. *adj.* [*semilunar*, Fr. *semi* and *luna*, Latin.]
SEMDIOLARY. *adj.* Resembling in form a half moon.
The eyes are guarded with a *semilunar* ridge. *Grew.*
SEMDIMETAL. *n. f.* [*semi* and *metal*.] Half metal; imperfect
metal.
Semimetals are metallick fossils, heavy, opaque, of a bright
glittering surface, and not malleable under the hammer; such
as quicksilver, antimony, cobalt, with the arsenicks, bismuth,
zink, with its ore calamine: to these may be added the semi-
metallick recrements, such as tutty and pampholyx. *Hill.*
SEMINALITY. *n. f.* [from *semen*, Latin.]
1. The nature of seed.
As though there were a *seminality* in urine, or that, like the
seed, it carried with it the idea of every part, they foolishly
conceive we visibly behold therein the anatomy of every par-
ticle. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
2. The power of being produced.
In the seeds of wheat there lieth obscurely the *seminality* of
darnel. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
SEMINAL. *adj.* [*seminalis*, French; *seminis*, Latin.]
1. Belonging to seed.
2. Contained in the seed; radical.
Had our senses never presented us with those obvious *seminal*
principles of apparent generations, we should never have
suspected that a plant or animal would have proceeded from
such unlikely materials. *Clayton, Scops.*
Though we cannot prolong the period of a commonwealth
beyond the decree of heaven, or the date of its nature, any
more than human life beyond the strength of the *seminat* vir-
tue, yet we may manage a sickly constitution, and preserve a
strong one. *Swift.*
SEMINARY. *n. f.* [*seminaire*, Fr. *seminarium* from *seminis*, Lat.]
1. The ground where any thing is sown to be afterwards trans-
planted.
Some, at the first transplanting trees out of their *seminaries*,
cut them off about an inch from the ground, and plant them
like quickset.
2. The place or original stock whence any thing is brought.
This stratum is still expanded at top of all, serving for a
common integuments, and being the *seminary* or promptuary
that furnisheth forth matter for the formation and increment of
animal and vegetable bodies. *Woodward.*
3. Seminal state.
The hand of God, who first created the earth, hath wisely
contrived them in their proper *seminaries*, and where they best
maintain the intention of their species. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
4. Original; first principles.
Nothing subministrates apter matter to be converted into
pellucid *seminaries*, sooner than streams of nasty folks and
beggars. *Harvey on the Plague.*
5. Breeding place; place of education, from whence scholars
are transplanted into life.
It was the seat of the greatest monarchy, and the *seminary*
of the greatest men of the world, whilst it was heathen. *Bacon.*
The inns of court must be the worst instituted *seminaries*
in any Christian country. *Swift.*

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SEMINATILIS. *n. f.* [from *seminis*, Latin.] The act of
sowing.
SEMINIFICAL. *adj.* [*semen* and *facio*, Latin.] Productive of
SEMINIFICK. *seed*.
We are made to believe, that in the fourteenth year males
are *seminifical* and pubescent; but he that shall inquire into
the generality, will rather adhere unto Aristotle. *Brown.*
SEMINIFICATION. *n. f.*
Seminification is the propagation from the seed or feminal
parts. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
SEMIOPACOUS. *adj.* [*semi* and *opacus*, Latin.] Half dark.
Semioacous bodies are such as, looked upon in an ordinary
light, and not held betwixt it and the eye, are not wont to be
discriminated from the rest of opacous bodies. *Boyle.*
SEMIPEDAL. *adj.* [*semi* and *pedis*, Latin.] Containing half a
foot.
SEMPERPERICUOUS. *adj.* [*semi* and *periculosus*, Latin.] Half
transparent; imperfectly clear.
A kind of amethystine flint, not composed of crystals or
grains; but one intire massy stone, *semiperpericuous*, and of a
pale blue, almost of the colour of some cow's horns. *Grew.*
SEMIORDINATE. *n. f.* [In conick sections.] A line drawn
at right angles to and bisected by the axis, and reaching from
one side of the section to another; the half of which is prop-
erly the *semiorordinate*, but is now called the ordinate. *Harris.*
SEMPIPELLOCID. *adj.* [*semi* and *pellucidus*, Latin.] Half clear;
imperfectly transparent.
A light grey *semipellucid* flint, of much the same complexion
with the common Indian agat. *Woodward.*
SEMPIPROOF. *n. f.* [*semi* and *proof*.] The proof of a single
evidence. *Bailey.*
SEMIQUADRATE. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] An aspect of the
SEMIQUARTILE. planets when distant from each other forty
five degrees, or one sign and a half. *Bailey.*
SEMIQUAVER. *n. f.* [In music.] A note containing half the
quantity of the quaver. *Bailey.*
SEMIQUINTILE. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] An aspect of the plan-
ets when at the distance of thirty-six degrees from one an-
other. *Bailey.*
SEMISEXILE. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] A semisextile; an aspect of
the planets when they are distant from each other one twelfth
part of a circle, or thirty degrees. *Bailey.*
SEMI SPHERICAL. *adj.* [*semi* and *spherical*.] Belonging to
half a sphere. *Bailey.*
SEMI SPHEROIDAL. *adj.* [*semi* and *spheroidal*.] Formed like a
half spheroid.
SEMI TERTIAN. *n. f.* [*semi* and *tertian*.] An ague com-
pounded of a tertian and a quotidian. *Bailey.*
The natural product of such a cold moist year are tertians,
semitertians, and some quartans. *Arbutnot on Air.*
SEMITONE. *n. f.* [*semiton*, French.] In music, one of the
degrees of continuous intervals of concords. *Bailey.*
SEMI VOVEL. *n. f.* [*semi* and *vowel*.] A consonant which
makes an imperfect sound, or does not demand a total occlu-
sion of the mouth.
When Homer would represent any agreeable object, he
makes use of the smoothest vowels and most flowing *semi-*
vowels. *Brown's Notes to the Odyssey.*
SEMPERVIVRE. *n. f.* [*semper* and *vivus*, Latin, that is, always
alive.] A plant.
The greater *sempervivore* will put out branches two or three
years; but they wrap the root in an oil cloth once in half a
year. *Bacon.*
SEMPITERNAL. *adj.* [*sempternus*, Fr. *sempiternus*, from *semper*
and *eternus*, Latin.]
1. Eternal in futurity; having beginning, but no end.
Those, though they suppose the world not to be eternal,
a parte ante, are not contented to suppose it to be *semi-*
pereternal, or eternal *a parte post*; but will carry up the crea-
tion of the world to an immense antiquity. *Hale.*
2. In poetry it is used simply for eternal.
Should we the long depending scale ascend
Of sons and fathers, will it never end?
If 'twill, then must we through the order run,
To some one man whose being ne'er begun;
If that one man was *sempiternal*, why
Did he, since independent, ever die? *Blackmore.*
SEMPITERNITY. *n. f.* [*sempiternitas*, Latin.] Future dura-
tion without end.
The future eternity, or *sempiternity* of the world, being ad-
mitted, though the eternity *a parte ante* be denied, there will
be a future infinity for the emanation of the divine good-
ness. *Hale.*
SEMPSTRESS. *n. f.* [*seamstress*, Saxon.] A woman whose
business is to sew; a woman who lives by her needle.
Two hundred *sempstresses* were employed to make me shirts,
and linnen for bed and table, which they were forced to quilt
together in several folds. *Calliver's Travel.*
The tuck'd up *sempstresses* walks with hasty strides. *Swift.*
SENNARY. *adj.* [*senarius*, *semi*, Latin.] Belonging to the num-
ber six; containing six.
SENATE.